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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Pollard, Barden to receive 2004 Trumpet Awards

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

A physician and a national casino operator are the recipients of a national award that recognizes the achievements and accomplishments of African-Americans and salutes them for their fortitude and persistence.

The 12th Annual Trumpet Awards has selected Dr. Anthony Pollard, a Las Vegas physician, and Don Barden, owner of casinos, for their individual successes and

business prosperity.

"The Trumpet Awards honors and educates with dignity and pride the contributions of African-Americans," said Xernona Clayton, founder and executive director of the awards show. "We've been filling in the missing history book pages."

The Atlanta-Ga.-based Trumpet Awards will be held on Jan. 26 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta. The telecast of the awards will be broadcast nationally



DON BARDEN

as well as to United States military installations around



DR. ANTHONY POLLARD

the world on February 21. The awards presentation will

air in 185 countries and aboard 35 U.S. Naval ships.

Barden, a businessman from Detroit, was selected as "Businessman of the Year." Pollard is being honored as "Philanthropist" of the Year. Pollard is the owner of Rainbow Medical Centers, which has seven locations throughout Clark County. He started the practice 15 years ago.

Barden is the chairman and CEO of Barden Companies Inc. and owns four casinos across the country. Three

of those properties include the Fitzgeralds casinos in Tunica, Miss., Black Hawk, Colo. and Las Vegas.

According to Clayton, a former civil rights activist who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the purpose of the Trumpet presentation is to erase the negative stereotypes associated with blacks because of ignorance, racism or segregation.

"I want to help to give us a positive image (and) present (See Trumpet Awards, Pg 2)

Poll: Jobs, education, health top concerns among Blacks

By Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

Jobs, educational equity and quality health care top the list of issues that Black voters say they must hear about from presidential candidates before making their decisions for the 2004 election, according to a new survey.

"Consistent with the selection of the most critical issues facing their community and those that have 'got-

ten worse,' in their communities, the top three issues they want the presidential candidates to address are jobs, educational equity and health services," concludes a study conducted by New Orleans pollster Silas Lee and Associates. "These data reflect the deterioration in the essential quality of life indicators for African-Americans and the further erosion of the potential for upward mobility for

many African-American citizens."

According to the survey results, taken from interviews with 570 African-Americans who attended the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend last September, 70 percent of those surveyed said joblessness had gotten worse, 67 percent said the quality of public education had taken a similar turn and 67 percent

said the availability of quality health care has also worsened. Close behind, 61 percent said the availability of affordable housing had gotten worse, and 59 percent said there was an erosion of civil liberties. In that exact order, those are the issues that voters said are the most critical in the Black community and the ones they wanted addressed by presidential candidates.

The survey was conducted for the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation, a non-profit working to improve Black voter turnout removing all remaining barriers to civic participation. The coalition of 130 organizations announced on Tuesday that it is leading a Unity '04 Civic Engagement and Voter Empowerment Campaign, a non-partisan initiative leveraging the resources

of all of its members to get out the Black vote in the November election.

"For us, this is about having a better framework on the kind of voter education activities and the types of messages we need to utilize to motivate people to get involved because the political process affects their lives," says Melanie Campbell, NCBCP executive director (See Poll, Page 4)

Millions of Blacks still uninsured

By Kevin J. Shay

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

While Congress recently passed a bill adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare, federal officials have failed to do anything to help the growing number of Americans who don't qualify for the federal health plan or any other medical coverage.

The situation particularly affects African-Americans.

Recent Census Bureau figures show that 20.2 percent of Black Americans were uninsured in 2002. The increase of 1.2 percentage points from 2001 was the highest rise among racial groups.

Hispanics have an even larger portion of their population who are forced to seek low-cost clinics, public facilities and hospital emergency rooms when they get sick or injured. Some 32.4 percent of Hispanics were uninsured in 2002, though that percentage declined almost 1 percentage point from

2001.

Some 18.4 percent of Asians and 14.2 percent of Whites were not insured in 2002. Overall, almost 44 million Americans lacked health insurance during all of 2002, a significant increase from the roughly 41 million in 2001, according to federal estimates.

"The lack of health insurance is a major problem in Black and Brown communities," said Maya Rockey Moore, vice president of research and programs for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in Washington, D.C. "For example, African-Americans and Hispanics suffer the highest rates of health disparities, like Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke, that result in disability and premature death. Most health disparities are a result of chronic diseases that could have been prevented with adequate access to quality health care."

Texas residents are the worst insured in the nation,

with almost one in four residents — 24.1 percent — lacking health coverage. That is almost double the national average of 14.7 percent.

"In Texas, a simple ear infection in a child may not be properly treated for years, causing preventable hearing loss, speech deficits and life-long learning problems," said Houston pediatrician Ana Malinow, a board member of Physicians for a National Health Program, a Chicago-based organization working for a health system that covers all Americans. "The 'leave no child behind' state is frighteningly callous when it comes to children's health, and it's no better for the adults I see in my volunteer work at a local shelter. The health care system in Texas is failing everybody."

In Dallas, more people are losing health coverage through continued corporate layoffs and other cutbacks, said Bob Lydia, president of the Dallas chapter of the (See Uninsured, Page 3)



HAPPY HOMECOMING

Grins painting their war-weary faces, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division arrive home Wednesday at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Ft. Campbell has suffered more casualties than any other Army post to date, having lost 59 soldiers in Iraq.